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The SPECTATOR.

——Inceptus clamor fruſtratur hiantes. Virg.

WEDNESDAY, *July* 14. 1714.

I Have received private Advice from ſome of my Correſpondents, that if I would give my Paper a general Run, I muſt take care to ſeaſon it with Scandal. I have indeed obſerved of late, that few Writings ſell which are not filled with great Names and illuſtrious Titles. The Reader generally caſts his Eye upon a new Book, and if he finds ſeveral Letters ſeparated from one another by a Daſh, he buys it up and peruſes it with great Satisfaction. An *M* and an *b*, a *T* and an *r*, with a ſhort Line between them, has ſold many an inſipid Pamphlet. I have known a whole Edition go off by vertue of two or three well-written *&c*——'s.

A ſprinkling of the Words *Faction*, *Frenchman*, *Papiſt*, *Plunderer*, and the like ſignificant Terms, in an Italick Character, have alſo a very good Effect upon the Eye of the Reader; not to mention *Scribler*, *Lier*, *Rogue*, *Raſcal*, *Knave*, and *Villain*, without which it is impoſſible to carry on a Modern Controverſie.

Our Party-writers are ſo ſenſible of the ſecret Vertue of an Innuendo to recommend their Productions, that of late they never mention the Q——n or P————t at length, tho' they ſpeak of them with Honour, and with that Deference which is due to them from every private Perſon. It gives a ſecret Satisfaction to a Peruſer of theſe myſterious Works, that he is able to decipher them without help, and, by the Strength of his own natural Parts, to fill up a Blank-Space, or make out a Word that has only the firſt or laſt Letter to it.

Some of our Authors indeed, when they would be more Satyrical than ordinary, omit only the Vowels of a great Man's Name, and fall moſt unmercifully upon all the Conſonants. This way of writing was firſt of all introduced by *T--m Br--n*, of facetious Memory, who, after having gutted a Proper Name of all its intermediate Vowels, uſed to plant it in his Works, and make as free with it as he pleaſed, without any danger of the Statute.

That I may imitate theſe celebrated Authors, and publiſh a Paper which ſhall be more taking than ordinary, I have here drawn up a very curious Libel, in which a Reader of Penetration will find a great deal of concealed Satyr, and if he be acquainted with

with the preſent Poſture of Affairs, will eaſily diſcover the Meaning of it.

'If there are *four* Perſons in the Nation who 'endeavour to bring all things into Confuſion and 'ruin their native Country, I think every honeſt '*Engl-ſhm-n* ought to be upon his Guard. That there 'are ſuch every one will agree with me, who hears 'me name * * * with his firſt Friend and Fa'vourite * * * not to mention * * * nor * * *. 'Theſe People may cry Ch--rch, Ch--rch, as long as 'they pleaſe, but, to make uſe of a homely Proverb, 'The Proof of the P--dd--ng is in the eating. This 'I am ſure of, that if a *certain Prince* ſhould con'cur with a *certain Prelate*, (and we have Monſieur 'Z---n's Word for it) our Poſterity would be in a 'ſweet P--ckle. Muſt the *Britiſh* Nation ſuffer for'ſooth, becauſe my Lady *Q--p--t--s* has been diſo'bliged? Or is it reaſonable that our *Engliſh* Fleet, 'which uſed to be the Terror of the Ocean, ſhould 'lie Wind-bound for the ſake of a —. I love 'to ſpeak out and declare my Mind clearly, when I 'am talking for the good of my Country. I will not 'make my Court to an ill Man, tho' he were a '*B*---y or a *T*----*t*. Nay, I would not ſtick to call ſo 'wretched a Politician a Traitor, an Enemy to his 'Country, and a Bl--nd--r--b--ſs, &c. &c.

The remaining part of this Political Treatiſe, which is written after the manner of the moſt celebrated Authors in *Great Britain*, I may communicate to the Publick at a more convenient Seaſon. In the mean while I ſhall leave this with my curious Reader, as ſome ingenious Writers do their Enigmas, and if any ſagacious Perſon can fairly unriddle it, I will print his Explanation, and, if he pleaſes, acquaint the World with his Name.

I hope this ſhort Eſſay will convince my Readers, it is not for want of Abilities that I avoid State-tracts, and that if I would apply my Mind to it, I might in a little time be as great a Maſter of the Political Scratch as any the moſt eminent Writer of the Age. I ſhall only add, that in order to outſhine all this Modern Race of *Syncopiſts*, and thoroughly content my *Engliſh* Readers, I intend ſhortly to publiſh a SPECTATOR that ſhall not have a ſingle Vowel in it.

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